

National Cancer Advisory Board

Subcommittee for Review of Contracts
and Budget of the Office of the Director

National Cancer Institute

Concept Review, 6 October 1982

Minutes

At 12:30 p.m., Dr. Robert C. Hickey called to order the meeting for concept review of FY 1983 contract proposals. Attending in addition to the Chairman, were subcommittee members Drs. Joseph Gale Katterhagen, William E. Powers, Janet D. Rowley, and Ms. Rose Kushner, and National Cancer Advisory Board members Drs. Ed L. Calhoun, Geza J. Jako, and Ms. Angel Bradley. Representing the NCI were Associate Director for Administrative Management Philip D. Amoruso, and Administrative Officer James E. Prather, who serves as Executive Secretary to the subcommittee.

Dr. Hickey welcomed the new members of the Board who were visiting the subcommittee, and asked Mr. Amoruso to review the information in the Concept Review briefing book. After calling attention to changes in the OD organization and to the section on concept review requirements and funding mechanism definitions, Mr. Amoruso addressed the OD FY 1983 budget. There followed a discussion covering the issues of funding fluctuations for resource contracts, consideration of indirect costs in contract review, and the expected shift to the OD budget of funds for the Frederick Cancer Research Facility support. (Mr. Amoruso explained that oversight of the FCRF contracts falls under the purview of a newly chartered Board of Scientific Counselors, and not this subcommittee. Dr. Rowley had attended the Frederick BSC meeting as an NCAB observer and complimented Dr. Fischinger on a first-rate Board, very well organized.)

Under old business, the Chair called on Mr. Thomas J. Kean, formerly of Office of Cancer Communications, to address questions of the subcommittee concerning the concept of a national survey of public knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to cancer. This concept had been presented for review at the May 1982 meeting.

Referring to his 15 September 1982 memorandum to the subcommittee members, Mr. Kean explained that the sample size was consonant with (survey) industry recommendations and would yield data well suited to OCC's needs. He went on to say, in response to a second concern, that although there are differences between telephone interviews and face-to-face interviews, compensations for this exist, and the ability to so compensate would be

considered when selecting a contractor. Finally, Mr. Kean agreed that recent media coverage at the time of the survey could indeed effect the results, but pointed out ways in which this could be allowed for and benefitted from in the study analysis. This proposal for a new contract and has already been cleared by and approved for the Department's 1% Set-Aside for Evaluation Projects program; \$262,000 of the \$277,000 estimated budget would be paid from 1% funds, and \$15,000 from NCI funds. Following a brief discussion, Ms. Kushner moved that the concept be approved for joint support with the 1% program and Dr. Katterhagen seconded the motion. The motion carried with Ms. Kushner and Dr. Powers in favor and Dr. Katterhagen opposed. In response to a request from the Chair, Ms. Kushner moved for approval at full funding should 1% funds not be made available. Dr. Katterhagen seconded, and the motion carried with the same vote as above.

Moving to the concept review portion of the meeting, the Chair noted that both concepts being presented were for the International Cancer Research Data Bank. The Chair then recognized the Associate Director for International Affairs, Dr. Gregory T. O'Connor, who gave an overview of the mandate and functions of the International Cancer Research Data Bank.

The first concept, a "Joint NLM/NCI International Cancer Research Data Bank", was presented by the project officer, Ms. Donna Wicker, ICRDB. This Intra-agency Agreement, number Y01-CO-50003, was initiated in 1974 and provides the mechanism by which the National Library of Medicine mounts, updates, and makes available the tapes of various ICRDB data bases. The proposal is for a five-year agreement at a total cost of \$1,700,000, or \$340,000 a year. The subcommittee expressed support for the contract and great interest in the program. Dr. Katterhagen moved for approval and Dr. Powers seconded; the question passed unanimously.

The next concept was a recompetition of the resource contract, "Computer Support for Cancer Information Dissemination," number N01-CO-05468. Project Officer and ICRDB Program Director Dr. John Schneider presented the proposal for a four-year contract totaling \$2,927,000. He explained that this contract provides the service whereby data from a variety of sources is received, reviewed, and formatted according to NLM specifications, and provides processing, updating, indexing and file-building for ICRDB data bases. After confirming that the contract provides support only and does not effect the substance of the data, Dr. Powers moved for approval at the proposed level. Ms. Kushner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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The concept review portion of the meeting concluded, the Chair asked Dr. O'Connor to speak to the subcommittee's interest in cost recovery for publishing and distributing the Cancergrams, an ICRDB publication series. Dr. O'Connor explained what the Cancergrams are and how they are distributed by the National Technical Information Service to the 26,000 recipients world-wide. Referring to a chart of cost recovery options he had prepared and distributed to the subcommittee, Dr. O'Connor showed how the NTIS requirement of a \$30 "front-end" annual fee for each domestic recipient would more than double the cost of Cancergrams before returning any funds to NCI. The subcommittee discussed each of the options and its ramifications with Dr. O'Connor; the resulting consensus was that the status quo should be maintained and that cost recovery should not be pursued.

The business of the subcommittee being concluded, Dr. Hickey adjourned the meeting at 2:45 P.M.